6 March 1975

Dear Harold:

This covers your meaty mailing of Feb. 27 and the smaller one of March 3.

I should tell you that the NYTimes returned the Ambassador Nixon piece a second time, this time with no explanation except a printed card with a pencilled "Sorry" and the editor's initials. Probably it still was too long for them, and it may be that they were overly impressed by Korff's and Ziegler's meaningless denials. In any case, I'm letting it sit a while before re-doing it for someone else -- whom I don't know, but am thinking about Rolling Stone. RS would take any amount of wordage if they liked the idea and the way it was handled. What I need now is a new peg for an intro and a bit more time for the Korff-Ziegler denials to wear off.

I consider them to be support our theory that Nixon floated the diplomatic balloon and the one about getting back into GOP politics at the same time in order to do exactly what you suggest -- scare hell out of the Republicaans that they'd have him messing around in the 1976 campaign unless they got him safely out of the country. In that case, how simple to send him to Peking. Don't think the Chinese don't have this all figured out. In other words, when the balloons created no public reaction, such as dancing in the streets, but undoubtedly sent waves of horror coursing through the GOP catacombs, Nixon had Korff and the Ziggy Ron haul them down. He realized he had overplayed his hand and acted accordingly. But he'll try again. His options are not what they once were, but are not yet non-existent because he knows too much. He also knows that whatever leverage this gives him is shrinking.

On your remarks about reading the Chameleon File and your thought that there may have been more than one novelist on the string, I hadn't brought that up because I always assumed that if they had one they'd have another or more likely even more because of the variation in talent, interest and abilities among writers. Obviously, it would not do to rely on someone of Hunt's limited vision alone. There would have to be others to exploit different opportunities and approaches. A good example may be "The Plot to Kill the President," published in 1972 as an original paperback by Pinnacle Books, 116 East 27 Street, New York 10016. The author is listed as Jack Pearl. He writes like a novelist with considerable experience. Has a certain ease and assurance about him that is difficult to associate with Hunt. Like Hunt, he does go in for some sex, but some of it is quite sensitively done in a way Hunt couldn't imagine, I think. The plot is better than most of Hunt's and the technical details are well taken care of. The attempt is made on a President reminiscent of LBJ and gails. Lots of interesting allusions to the JFK assassination, some a bit daring in a way. Even so, I think it was a company job.

We're indeed sorry to hear how the TC55 turned out. Surely Sony will have to make it good in some way, and I hope to your satisfaction. From what you say about it, and from experience we have had with a couple of CF300 combination AM-FM radios with built-in cassette recorders with condenser mikes also built-in, I'd say your TC55 has a good chance of having a defective switching panel, including a short circuit.

I think that with anything so small, even as small as the TC40, you stand a much higher chance of having some defect get past the factory inspection routine. In other words, your TC55 could have been just as good as your TC40 if the feng shui had been right. Lesar's experience with his TC40 certainly seems to bear this out.

I also hope Grodin is interested and willing in helping you see this thing through with the dealer and Sony. It may take some time, but they certainly should make it good in one way or another.

I'm relieved that you appear to have anticipated Judge McRae's adverse ruling and that you didn't let it bother you. The longer he took, the more I felt he'd rule against your side. I note your request for any comment on your projection of how to organize the appeal, but really cannot offer any opinion except to say it certainly seems to have the virtue of being comprehensive and concerted with no holds barred.

In any case, good luck.

Best,

Jim

jdw

P.S. -- Nearly forgot to thank you for the extra clipping on the Peking Man story. I trust you noted that Dr. Shapiro is getting out a book on PM. Why now, unless he expects developments? Te return of the bones (after their miraculous recovery) could certainly improve American bargaining chances connected with tossing out Chiang Kai-shek and establishing full relations with Peking.

Also thanks for the Paul Valentine story on the UFO central. Did you notice that far back in the same issue of the Post, in a real estate section probably printed earlier, was another story on the same subject, from the Newhouse News Service ? Main difference was that the NewHouse story depicted the FBI as sort of puzzled by it all and inclined to hold it at arms length. Why us ? seemed to be their unspoken attitude.

You've probably guessed that Hynek is suspected of being an establishment fink, and that his UFO central near Chicago is just another way of controlling the situation. Thanks for noticing this, and for anything else along the same line you run into. jdw